Feeding on the Images and Content of the World

Was your desire to be saved primarily motivated by the desire to have a share in heaven and escape eternal punishment?

 Answer: Yes — Explanation: If your desire to be saved is based primarily on the hope of going to Heaven or the fear of eternal punishment, you need to honestly examine your motivation. Such an approach, centered on personal gain—whether the desire for reward or the fear of hell—reflects a superficial and opportunistic understanding of God's call.

Imagine a poor young woman who dreams of a better life and agrees to become the bride of a rich man's son, not out of love, but out of a desire to escape poverty. His father would be willing to give her everything, but on one condition: that she sincerely love his son. In reality, she is only after the material advantages she could obtain, without feeling any genuine appreciation for the young man she is supposed to love. Would the young man's father appreciate her?

The same is true of the sinful man who comes to God only for the promise of Heaven or out of fear of Hell, without feeling any sincere admiration for the beauty of Christ's character and without the desire for a real closeness to Him.

Scripture presents the Lord Jesus as the Bridegroom who comes to take His Bride — the Church. If we desire anything more than Christ Himself in our hearts, then we have not truly understood the call of the Gospel.

Being born again is not the result of fear or selfish desire, but of sincere love for Christ—for who He is, not just for what He offers. Heaven is not just a beautiful destination, but the place where we will be for eternity with the One we love.

Fear of hell cannot be the foundation of a genuine relationship with the Lord Jesus. A motivation based on fear or self-interest does not reflect a genuine new birth. Lord Jesus clearly emphasized that a relationship with Him requires deep love and total commitment: “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:37).

 Answer: No — Explanation: If you answered "No," it is possible that your motivation was sincere love for Christ—a love that does not seek reward and does not merely flee punishment, but desires fellowship with Him. This is the foundation of genuine new birth: a living, deep, and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, based on who He

is, not what He can offer.

If you love Christ (His character) with all your heart, with all your mind, and more than anything else in the world, then the conditions for a new life and authentic growth are met.

This post is an excerpt from the booklet "Are You Truly Born Again? – Biblical Questionnaire", which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.